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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 FBO-02 A-01

INRE-00 SCA-01 /050 W
---------- 031232
O 131342Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1202

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8240

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: NEW CONSULATES: SOVIET PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN
NEW YORK

1. KOMPLEKTOV, FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF MFA USA DIVISION, TELEPHONED CHARGE' TODAY TO REQUEST THAT MESSAGE BE RELAYED TO DEPARTMENT URGENTLY REQUESTING THAT PERMISSION BE GRANTED TO SOVIET EMBASSY TO EXERCISE OPTION TO PURCHASE CONGEN PROPERTY IN NEW YORK BEFORE OPTION EXPIRES JUNE 15. HE SAID THAT PROPERTY HAD NOW BEEN OFFERED IN KIEV WHICH SHOULD MEET OUR NEEDS FOR OFFICE BUILDING AND RESIDENCE, AND SOVIETS WILLING TO ASSURE THAT WHATEVER PROPERTY WE SELECT WILL BE MODIFIED PROMPTLY TO SUIT OUR REQUIREMENTS. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, MINISTRY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND FAILURE OF DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW SOVIET EMBASSY TO EXERCISE OPTION WHICH EXPIRES SUNDAY. INDEED, IF PROPERTY SHOULD BE LOST BECAUSE OF DEPARTMENT'S REFUSAL TO GRANT APPROVAL, "IMPLICATIONS FOR AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATES IN NEW YORK AND KIEV WOULD BE MOST SERIOUS." AND IN ANY CASE, PROPERTY OFFERS IN KIEV WOULD NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED VALID.

2. CHARGE' TOLD KOMPLEKTOV THAT HIS STATEMENT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED PROMPTLY TO DEPARTMENT. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NOT IN FACT DETERMINED WHETHER THE PROPERTIES OFFERED IN KIEV WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO US.
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THOSE SHOWN US RECENTLY WERE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE

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FIRST SHOWN, BUT AN INSPECTION BY QUALIFIED SPECIALISTS
WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE A DETERMINATION CAN BE MADE.
CHARGE' ALSO OBSERVED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD DEPARTMENT IS
IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOVIET EMBASSY ON THIS MATTER AND THAT
HE CERTAIN THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO FIND SOLUTION
CONSISTENT WITH RECIPROCITY. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
WHICH INCLUDE SOVIET SLOWNESS IN FINDING PROPERTY IN KIEV
EVEN REMOTELY IN ACCORD WITH OUR REQUIREMENTS AND FACT THAT
US HAS NOT RESORTED TO TIME DEADLINES AND ULTIMATA, HE
CONSIDERED IMPLICIT THREAT IN KOMPLEKTOV'S STATEMENT
UNWARRANTED AND LIKELY TO BE UNHELPFUL. U.S. IS OBVIOUSLY
NOT TO BLAME IF SOVIET EMBASSY SIGNED OPTION IN PRIVATE
REAL ESTATE MARKET BEFORE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS IN POSITION
TO OFFER PROPERTY MEETING OUR REQUIREMENTS IN KIEV.

3. CONVERSATION ENDED WITH BOTH EXPRESSING HOPE THAT
MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND.
MATLOCK

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